

AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

The status of all claims and the text of pending claims, with markings to show current changes relative to the immediately prior version, follows.

1. (Previously Presented) A bristle arrangement for subsequent use in a brush seal, the bristle arrangement consisting essentially of:
  - a plurality of bristles arranged in a length; and
  - a joint securing said plurality of bristles together;
  - wherein said joint extends along said length.
2. (Original) The bristle arrangement as recited in claim 1, wherein said joint is a weld joint.
3. (Original) The bristle arrangement as recited in claim 1, wherein said bristles each have opposed ends, and said joint is located at one of said opposed ends.
4. (Original) The bristle arrangement as recited in claim 1, wherein said plurality of bristles are metallic.
5. (Original) The bristle arrangement as recited in claim 1, wherein the bristle arrangement is subsequently combined with plates to form a brush seal.

6. (Original) The bristle arrangement as recited in claim 5, wherein a plurality of the bristle arrangements are subsequently combined with a plurality of said plates to form a multiple stage brush seal.
7. (Original) The bristle arrangement as recited in claim 1, wherein said length defines an arc.
8. (Original) The bristle arrangement as recited in claim 7, wherein said arc is a circle.
9. (Original) The bristle arrangement as recited in claim 7, wherein said arc has an outer diameter and an inner diameter, and said joint is located at said outer diameter or said inner diameter.
10. (Original) The bristle arrangement as recited in claim 1, wherein said joint is continuous.
11. (Original) The bristle arrangement as recited in claim 1, wherein said plurality of bristles are grouped in tufts, said joint securing said tufts together.
12. (Previously Presented) A method of making a bristle arrangement for subsequent use in a brush seal, comprising the steps of:
  - arranging a plurality of bristles along a length; and
  - joining essentially just said plurality of bristles along said length.

13. (Original) The method as recited in claim 12, wherein the joining step comprises welding.
14. (Original) The method as recited in claim 12, wherein the joining step occurs at an end of said bristles.
15. (Original) The method as recited in claim 12, wherein said plurality of bristles are metallic.
16. (Original) The method as recited in claim 12, further comprising the step of securing the bristle arrangement between plates to form a brush seal.
17. (Original) The method as recited in claim 12, wherein said length comprises an arc.
18. (Original) The method as recited in claim 17, wherein said arc is a circle.
19. (Original) The method as recited in claim 17, wherein the joining step occurs at an outer diameter or an inner diameter of said arc.
20. (Original) The method as recited in claim 17, wherein the joining step creates a continuous joint along said arc.

21. (Original) The method as recited in claim 12, wherein the arranging step comprises the steps of:
- separating said plurality of bristles into groups;
  - joining said plurality of bristles within said groups to create tufts; and
  - arranging said tufts along said length.
22. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 12, wherein the arranging and joining steps use an apparatus comprising:
- a base having a surface with an arrangement of guides thereon, said guides adapted to orient said bristles on said surface for the arranging step; and
  - a cover having a surface for receiving said bristles;
- wherein said cover removably mounts to said base to sandwich said bristles between said base and said cover for the joining step.
23. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim ~~23~~ 22, wherein said apparatus further comprises a shuttle, said shuttle removably receiving said base and having an arrangement of guides thereon corresponding to said guides on said base for orienting said bristles in the arranging step.
24. (Previously Presented) A method of making a brush seal having multiple stages, comprising the steps of:
- providing discrete plates and discrete bristle arrangements;

creating a stack of said discrete plates and discrete bristle arrangements to define said multiple stages of said brush seal; and  
joining said stack to create said brush seal.

25. (Original) The method as recited in claim 24, wherein said bristle arrangement includes:

a plurality of bristles arranged along a length; and  
a joint extending along said length and securing said plurality of bristles together.

26. (Original) The method as recited in claim 25, wherein said plurality of bristles are arranged in an arc, and said joint extends along said arc.

27. (Original) The method as recited in claim 26, wherein said arc is a circle.

28. (Original) The method as recited in claim 25, wherein said joint extends continuously along said length.

29. (Original) The method as recited in claim 24, wherein the joining step comprises welding.

30. (Original) The method as recited in claim 29, wherein said plates include a windage cover,

31. (Cancelled)
32. (New) A bristle arrangement for subsequent use in a brush seal, the bristle arrangement comprising a plurality of bristles arranged in a length and held together, wherein a feature holding said plurality of bristles together consists of a joint extending along said length.
33. The bristle arrangement as recited in claim 32, wherein said joint is a weld joint.
34. The bristle arrangement as recited in claim 32, wherein said bristles each have opposed ends, and said joint is located at one of said opposed ends.
35. The bristle arrangement as recited in claim 32, wherein said plurality of bristles are metallic.
36. The bristle arrangement as recited in claim 32, wherein the bristle arrangement is subsequently combined with plates to form a brush seal.
37. The bristle arrangement as recited in claim 36, wherein a plurality of the bristle arrangements are subsequently combined with a plurality of said plates to form a multiple stage brush seal.
38. The bristle arrangement as recited in claim 32, wherein said length defines an arc.

39. The bristle arrangement as recited in claim 38, wherein said arc is a circle.
40. The bristle arrangement as recited in claim 39, wherein said arc has an outer diameter and an inner diameter, and said joint is located at said outer diameter or said inner diameter.
41. The bristle arrangement as recited in claim 32, wherein said joint is continuous.
42. The bristle arrangement as recited in claim 32, wherein said plurality of bristles are grouped in tufts, said joint securing said tufts together.